

AGENDA

CONNECTICUT BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR OPTICIANS

Tuesday, September 22, 2015, at 9:00 AM
Department of Public Health
410 Capitol Avenue, Hartford CT
Second Floor – Law Library

CALL TO ORDER

I. Minutes

Review and approval of the minutes from the May 18, 2015 meeting.

II. Department of Public Health Updates

A. Investigations Update

Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH

B. Examination Update

Deborah Brown, Health Program Assistant

III. Office Of Licensure Regulation And Compliance

A. Sears Optical (Waterford, CT) – Petition No. 2013-302

Presentation of Consent Order – Joelle Newton, Staff Attorney DPH

IV. Additional Agenda Items

Continuing education credits

ADJOURN

The Department of Public Health is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

*If you require aid/accommodation to participate fully and fairly,
please contact the Public Health Hearing Office at 860-509-7566*

The following minutes are draft minutes which are subject to revision and have not yet been adopted by the board.

The Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians held a meeting on Wednesday May 18, 2015 at the Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, Third Floor, Hearing Room, Hartford, CT.

Board Members Present: René” Skip” Rivard, LO, Chairperson
Daniel Denegre, LO (by remote conference call)
Donna K. Bojus (Public Member)

Board Members Absent: None

Also Present: Gary Griffin, Practitioner Investigation Unit, DPH;
Deborah Brown, DPH Health Program Assistant; Alfreda
Gaither, Esq., Staff Attorney, Hearing Office, DPH;

Invited Guest: James Morris, General Counsel &
Executive Director, ABO/NCLE

Chairperson René Rivard called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

- I. Minutes -
 - A. Motion to accept minutes from the meeting of March 25, 2015. **Motion: Bojus; Second, Denegre.** Motion Passed.

- II. Department of Public Health Updates
 - A. Investigations Update - *Gary Griffin, Practitioner, Investigation Unit, DPH*
 1. Mr. Griffin reported two cases are under investigation. A previous case referenced at the last meeting of the Board has been referred to the Office of Licensure Regulation and Compliance and is the hands of a staff attorney who will attempt to negotiate a consent order. He acknowledged that an investigation pertaining to Walmart Optical, first referenced in the minutes of May 2012, is currently under review by Kathleen Boulware, Public Health Services Manager, DPH. It was agreed that a resolution should be presented at the next meeting of the Board.
 2. Mr. Griffin explained that a case reported as dismissed at the Board meeting in March 2015, was reported in error due to a computer error.
 3. He reported no cases had been dismissed by the Department.
 - B. Examination Update - *Deborah Brown, DPH Health Program Assistant*
 1. Ms. Brown announced the dates of the practical exams:
 - a. Wednesday, June 3
 - (1) Contact Lens - 3 retakes, 13 new. Total 16
 - (2) 1 State law retake
 - b. Tuesday, June 9
 - (1) Eyewear - 9 retakes, 13 new. Total 22
 - (2) State law - 13

- III. New Business - *James Morris, General Counsel & Executive Director, American Board of Opticianry & National Contact Lens Examiners,*

- A. Attorney Morris discussed in detail the virtual practical examinations which have been psychometrically developed by the American Board of Opticianry and the National Contact Lens Examiners. He explained that the new computerized exams were not developed to compete with States which have a practical exam. He explained the multiple high tech methods used to assess candidates' practical skills within a virtual environment. The technology includes audio and video scenarios for problem solving, patient assessments and skills analysis. To be eligible, candidates must first pass current ABO and/or NCLE certification exams. The anticipated application fee is \$75.00.

Starting in November, scores for the computerized ABO and NCLE will be available immediately upon completion. If successful, candidates will have the option to immediately take the virtual practical exam.

All exams will be offered quarterly. However, previously unsuccessful candidates must wait six months for retesting. The same test is not repeated.

Although other agencies have developed so-called virtual exams, Attorney Morris advised the Board that the ABO and the NCLE have been accredited by the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and psychometrically developed.

Responding to a question from Chairman Rivard, he informed the Board that it's conceivable his organization could also develop a virtual examination to replace our written State Law exam.

If requested, he would make the all exams available to the Board for review and possible implementation.

IV. Additional Agenda Items

A. Continuing Education credits

1. Mr. Rivard asked Attorney Morris if he was aware of any States that audit its required continuing education credits prior to license renewal. Unofficially, he thought seven or eight States might randomly audit or validate require proof of credits.
2. Discussion followed regarding ongoing concerns from the Board that mandated annual continuing education credits for required for license renewal have not been obtained. The Board is looking for methods to validate proof of continuing education through a random audit or other methods.

Through DPH representatives, the Board will attempt to solicit information from States which require continuing education regarding verification of credit hours received.

Adjournment:

Motion: Bojus, Second: Denegre Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:28 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



René R. Rivard
Connecticut Board of Examiners for Opticians